

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] The present invention includes a tamper resistance apparatus, including an electrical switch that is held in place within an electrical device interior and completes a power circuit until the device's structural integrity is compromised. The tamper resistance apparatus can be utilized with any suitable electrical device, and exemplary devices include data terminals such as personal identification number (PIN) pad transaction devices, telecommunication equipment, scanners, and other devices that receive, store, or transmit private or sensitive data. FIG. 1 is an exploded view of a circuit board 30 having a surface 34 with a tamper resistance apparatus 10 mounted thereon during use according to one embodiment of the invention. The circuit board 30 is coupled to the device housing (~~not shown~~) or container 40, and includes power circuit contacts 31 that are coupled to at least one power source. In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 1, two of the power circuit contacts 31a are connected to an external power source and two other power circuit contacts 31b are connected to an internal power source such as a battery. A ground material 32 surrounds the power circuit contacts 31, and defines a mounting area 33 on the circuit board surface 34.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] FIGs. 2 to 4 illustrate the tamper resistance apparatus 10, which includes a nonconductive boss 19 that houses electrical contacts 14 and is partially surrounded by a nonconductive flexible skirt 20. FIGs. 2 and 3 are isometric views of the apparatus 10, with FIG. 3 providing a transparent view to depict the interior components as well as the apparatus exterior. An exploded view of the apparatus 10 is depicted in FIG. 4. The boss 19 is formed of a nonconductive material such as a hardened resin to prevent causing a short in the power circuit on the circuit board 30. The resin or other conductive material can be molded to provide a groove 11 that engages with the container 40, a chassis or other device engaging component

(~~not shown~~) when the tamper resistance apparatus 10 is installed. A structure such as the square-edged body 13 inside the groove 11 further enables a secure coupling with a portion of the container 40, a chassis or other device engaging component that is adapted to match with the square-edged body 13. If the electrical device's structural integrity is subject to tampering or otherwise compromised, a lip 12 on one side of the groove 11 will be pulled by the container 40, a device chassis or other engaging component, and the entire tamper resistance apparatus 10 will be separated from the circuit board mounting area 33.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] The switch contacts 14 are rigidly mounted in the boss 19 and consequently are separated from the power circuit contacts 31a, 31b, hereinafter referred to generally as 31, if the boss 19 is repositioned. One way that the boss may be repositioned is by separating the circuit board 30 from the container 40, chassis or other engaging component (~~not shown~~) that engages with the boss groove 11. The circuit board 30 and the container 40, chassis or other engaging component are typically separated if the electrical device is being tampered with, and the tamper resistance apparatus 10 causes power to be disconnected if such tampering occurs. As mentioned above, one way to maintain the power circuit is to insert glue into the device interior to adhere the boss 19 to the circuit board 30 so that the switch contacts 14 are not displaced when the device is opened. Another possible way to prevent the power circuit from breaking is to insert a conductive fluid into the device. The conductive fluid completes the power circuit even if the switch contacts 14 are pulled away from the circuit board 30. In order to prevent glue or conductive fluid from disabling the tamper resistance apparatus 10, the skirt 20 is provided about the boss periphery. The skirt 20 is shaped to conform to the boss dimensions. More particularly, the skirt depicted in the figures includes a wall 23 that snugly surrounds at least a portion of the boss wall 17.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] In yet another exemplary embodiment of the invention, the skirt 20 includes a soft shoulder portion 21 that defines an opening 25 through which the boss lip 12 and groove 11 extend. The soft shoulder portion 21 allows the groove 11 to remain exposed for engagement with the device container 40, chassis or other engaging component (not shown), but creates a substantially fluid-impermeable seal with the boss 19 to prevent glue or conductive fluid from reaching the skirt interior. The opening 25 can have a substantially circular shape, with a diameter that is smaller than the soft shoulder portion 21 to allow the soft shoulder portion 21 to form around the boss 19 and create the substantially fluid impermeable seal.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] The skirt 20 is made of a suitable flexible nonconductive material, and typically is made of a soft rubber such as polyurethane or another soft material. In an exemplary embodiment the entire skirt 20 is uniformly made of a single rubber material, including the flaring portion 22 and the soft shoulder portion 21. Alternatively, the skirt 20 may be formed primarily from a relatively rigid material as long as the soft shoulder portion 21 is made of the made of a sufficiently soft and pliable material to allow the entire boss 19 to be pulled through the opening [[21]] 25 in the event that the boss 19 is pulled away from the circuit board 30. Therefore, if the electrical device has its structural integrity compromised such that the circuit board and the container 40, a chassis (not shown) or other component engaging with the groove 11 are separated, the boss 19 can separate from the circuit board 30 without hindrance from the skirt 20. If glue or conductive fluid has been inserted into the device interior as an attempt to hold the boss 19 in place, the skirt will prevent the glue or conductive fluid from contacting the boss 19. If the skirt 20 becomes glued in place before the electrical device is opened, the boss 19 will be pulled through the opening 25 or sufficiently displaced to disconnect the power circuit. Consequently, the skirt 20 in combination with the boss provides a tamper resistance

apparatus 10 that prevents sensitive data from being removed from the electrical device due to tampering.